# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining interdependencies between project team members working on a development project utilizing a computer network, the method comprising:

receiving data indicative of a temporal relationship between a first and a second project team member resulting from modification of at least one artifact of the development project;

statistically analyzing the data indicative of the temporal relationship between the project team members;

forming at least one metric representative of a characteristic of an interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members;

storing the at least one metric representative of the interdependency relationship;

wherein the temporal relationship between the first and second project team members is used to quantify the interdependency relationship;

wherein the quantified interdependency relationship indicates a level of work that the first and second project team members are performing on the at least one artifact of the development project; and

wherein the steps of receiving data, statistically analyzing the data, forming at least one metric, and storing the at least one metric are performed over the computer network.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising collecting data indicative of modifying the at least one artifact of the development project by the first and second project team members, the data including a time-stamp.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one artifact includes at least one of a data element and a datafile.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said statistically analyzing includes performing a regression analysis.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said statistically analyzing includes performing a correlation to produce at least one correlation coefficient.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one metric representative of the interdependency relationship includes at least one of the following:
a correlation coefficient, a slope, and an intercept.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising forming a series of the metrics representative of the interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said forming the series includes repeating at predetermined, random, or pseudo-random time periods said receiving, statistically analyzing, and storing.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising displaying the series of metrics.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising generating a human legible alphanumeric description of the at least one metric to describe the strength of the interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for determining interdependency relationships between at least two project team members working on a development project including at least one artifact modified by the at least two project team members, the system comprising:

a data collector component associated with the development project, and operable to collect data indicative of a temporal relationship between the first and second project team members resulting from modification of the at least one object;

a statistics analyzer component for statistically analyzing the collected data indicative of the temporal relationship to form at least one metric representative of an interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members;

a data repository for storing the at least one metric representative of a characteristic of the interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members;

wherein the temporal relationship between the first and second project team members is used to quantify the interdependency relationship; and

wherein the quantified interdependency relationship indicates a level of work that the first and second project team members are performing on the at least one object.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the collected data includes time-stamps identifying at least one modification time of the at least one artifact by first and second project team members.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one artifact includes at least one of a data object and a datafile.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein statistically analyzing includes performing at least one of a regression analysis and a correlation.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one metric representative of the interdependency relationship includes a correlation coefficient.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein said data repository stores a series of the metrics representative of the interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16, further comprising a displayer for displaying the series of the metrics.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 17, wherein the series is graphically displayed.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 11, further comprising an interpreter for generating a human legible description of the at least one metric to describe a strength of the interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing an interdependency relationship between a first and a second person working on at least one artifact stored on a computer network, the method comprising:

    tracking modifications to the at least one artifact by the first and second person;

    storing parameters associated with the modifications to the at least one artifact by the first and second person;

    first identifying modifications to the at least one artifact performed by the first person as stored;

    second identifying modifications to the at least one artifact performed by the second person as stored;

    performing a statistical analysis based on the identified modifications to the at least one artifact by the first and second persons, the statistical analysis generating at least one metric ~~indicative~~ representative of a characteristic of the interdependency relationship between the first and second persons;

    formulating, via a temporal relationship between the first and second person, a quantified interdependency relationship;

    wherein the quantified interdependency relationship indicates a level of work that the first and second person is performing on the at least one artifact; and

    wherein the steps of tracking modifications, storing parameters, first identifying modifications, second identifying modifications, and performing statistical analysis are performed over the computer network.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the parameters include time-stamps identifying times of modifications to the at least one artifact by the first and second persons.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the at least one artifact is associated with a development project.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the parameters are stored in a table.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the table is a hash table.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the table includes at least one key associated with each of the at least one artifact.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one artifact includes at least one of a data object and a datafile.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the network includes at least one of the following: a local area network, a wide area network, and the Internet.

4

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~their~~ the statistical analysis includes at least one of a regression model and correlation.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said first and second identifying includes counting the number of modifications to the at least one artifact performed by the first and second persons temporally.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 29, further including summing a number of modifications to the at least one artifact modified by the first person and successively modified by the second person.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the identified modifications by the first and second persons are in the aggregate for artifacts of the same type.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the identified modifications by the first and second persons determined on an individual artifact basis.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions including instructions, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive data indicative of a temporal relationship between a first and a second project team member resulting from modification of at least one artifact of a development project;

statistically analyze the data indicative of the temporal relationship between the first and second project team members;

form at least one metric representative of a characteristic of an interdependency relationship between the first and second project team members;

wherein the temporal relationship between the first and second project team members is used to quantify the interdependency relationship; and

wherein the quantified interdependency relationship indicates a level of work that the first and second project team members are performing on the at least one artifact of the development project.